

Message Text

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EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR OVIP YO CU AO UR

SUBJ: ANGOLAN DEMARCHE; TITO CUBA TRIP

REF: A) BELGRADE 6773 B) BELGRADE 6842 C) BELGRADE 6792

1. RECEIVED TODAY FROM FSFA ASST SECRETARY FOR AFRICA SOUTH OF SAHARA OSTOJIC GOY NOTE (BEING SENT SEPTTEL) REJECTING OUR DEMARCHE ON ANGOLA QUESTION THAT I HAD DELIVERED LAST WEEK (REF A). IN LONG, SOMETIMES RAMBLING AND PERSONAL COMMENT AFTER READING NOTE, OSTOJIC SAID LANGUAGE HAS QTE SURPRISED UNQTE GOY AND WAS STRONGEST SINCE SOVIET DEMARCHES DURING COLD WAR ERA. FOR OBVIOUS REASONS I DID NOT DISCUSS NUMBERS OF SOVIET OVERFLIGHTS, BUT REITERATED OUR DEEP CONCERN ABOUT SOVIET AND CUBAN PUPPET INVOLVEMENT AND PUZZLING LACK OF GOY OPPOSITION TO SOVIET NAKED MILITARY INTERVENTIONISM IN AFRICA.

2. REPLYING TO QUESTION ABOUT TITO'S CUBA TRIP PLANS, OSTOJIC SAID IT STILL ON FOR JANUARY, MENTIONING CUBA AND MEXICO AS SITES. I REPEATED THAT MY GOVERNMENT INTERESTED IN KNOWING IF TITO HAD ANY CONSTRUCTIVE PLANS OR IDEAS TO HELP AMERIORATE WHAT WE CONSIDERED A DANGEROUS SITUATION. OSTOJIC ANSWERED SAYING TITO INFORMED OF USG VIEWS AND THESE WOULD BE QTE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT UNQTE. HE INDICATED GOY WAITING FOR OAU SUMMIT BEFORE CONSIDERING FURTHER STEPS OR

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POSITIONS. (COMMENT: IN LIGHT OF PRESS LINE BEING TAKEN

HERE - SEE REF C--WE ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC. INDEED, IT APPEARS AS IF GOY HAS LEAKED TO CORRESPONDENTS AND DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY LANGUAGE OF OUR NOTE. OSTOJIC INDICATED TO ME OBLIQUELY THAT PRESSURE IS COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.)

3. ON SITUATION IN ANGOLA ITSELF, OSTOJIC ASKED WHETHER US GIVING AID. I REPLIED WE HAD NOT ONE SINGLE MILITARY PERSON IN ANGOLA, IN CONTRAST TO SOVIETS AND CUBANS. I SAID WE NOW COUNTED 7500 CUBANS, TO WHICH OSTOJIC AFFIRMED GOY QTE KNEW THERE WERE SOME UNQTE BUT WAS UNIFORMED AS TO NUMBERS. HE THEN INTERJECTED THAT THERE WERE QTE OTHERS UNQTE, MEANING SOUTH AFRICANS, AND I SAID USG OPPOSED TO ALL FOREIGN MILITARY INTERVENTION.

4. I WAS STRUCK DURING CALL BY THREE POINTS. FIRST SENSITIVITY OF GOY TO STRENGTH OF LANGUAGE OF OUR DEMARCHE AND ITS IMPLIED REFERENCE TO THEIR INDEPENDENCE. OSTOJIC VIRTUALLY REHASHED ENTIRE YUGOSLAV WARTIME AND POST-WAR EXPERIENCE IN REAFFIRMING THEIR DEDICATION TO INDEPENDENCE. SECOND, WHOLE TENOR OF RESPONSE GEARED TOWARD AVOIDANCE OF SLIPPAGE IN FRIENDLY GOY-US BILATERALS. AGAIN, I GOT A REVIEW OF 1974 AND 1975 PROGRESS ON THIS AND THE HOPE THAT OUR NOTE WOULD NOT QTE MARK DIFFICULTIES IN BILATERAL RELATIONS AT THIS YEAR END UNQTE. THIRD, OSTOJIC ONLY RELUCTANTLY WOULD TALK ABOUT ANGOLA PER SE; HE KEPT SAYING THERE WOULD BE TIME TO SETTLE THE PROBLEM; THAT THERE WERE DIFFERENCES IN SUPERPOWER AND SMALL POWER MENTALITIES ON SUCH A PROBLEM. EVEN IN CLOSING MEETING, OSTOJIC RETURNED TO BILATERAL RELATIONS AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT 1976 WOULD SEE FURTHERANCE OF OUR GOOD RELATIONS. I TOLD HIM USG COULDN'T UNDERSTAND HOW GOY, CONTRARY TO TRADITIONAL POLICY OF NON-INTERVENTION, COULD SUPPORT SOVIET EFFORT TO MILITARILY ASSERT HEGEMONY ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, AND PARTICULARLY AFRICA. SILBERMAN

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